have got unlimited powers for sanctioning all types of credit to big industrialist/businessman,

(b) whether any written/delegated powers to Chairman and Executive Directors of banks have been given by Government; and

(c) whether Government have recently received any information regarding misuse of bank money due to negligence of Chairman or favour by Chairman, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) to (c) It is the practice in every bank to have a system of delegated power approved by their Board of Directors for sanctioning advances, incurring expenditure etc. These powers are always graded starting from the Board of Directors down to the branch managers The Chairmen and Managing Directors/Executive Directors of nationalised banks do not have unlimited powers to sanction advances. In fact above a certain cut off point, which varies from bank to bank, credit proposals have to be submitted to the Board of Directors for sanction. Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have been receiving various complaints against bank executives, including Chairmen and Managing Directors of banks, alleging deviation from normal banking norms/procedure in the management of credit portfolio. These allegations are looked into in detail by RBI and investigations are carried out wherever called for and necessary follow up action taken including advising the banks to fix staff accountability.

Number of Assessees of Income Tax and Wealth Tax

965. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether the number of assessees of income tax and wealth tax have decreased proportionally during the last three years,

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor,

(c) what is the number of appeal in respect of income tax and wealth tax and what is the number of cases pending with AAC, Commission (Appeal), Income Tax, Tribunal, High Court and Supreme Court,

(d) what is the amount of tax locked up due to litigation, and

(e) what steps have beeen taken by Government to realise the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) The pendency as on 1 4 90 was roughly as under

Dy Commissioner (Appeals)	2,01,000	Appeals
Commissioner (Appeals)	1,47,000	,,
Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	80,000	,,
High Courts	46,000	,,
Supreme Court	5,600	,,

(d) Statistics regarding the amount of money blocked because of litigation are not separately maintained in the Income-tax Department. However, the Income-tax demand stayed by various Courts and authorities on account of litigation as on 31.3.90 was Rs. 915 Crores

(e) So far as appeals before Dy. Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals) and Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals) are concerned, they are required to dispose of High Demand Appeals on priority basis. Weightage is also given for disposal of these appeals in assessing the performance of Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals) From the Government side, cases are taken to Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, High Courts and Supreme Court very selectively Further, vigorous steps have been taken to get them settled early. Requests are made for out-of-turn hearings in important and high demand cases. The High Courts have been requested for constitution of tax benches and cases are bunched up issue-wise so that they are disposed of expeditiously. Further, Income-tax Department has also moved the Supreme Court from time to time to centralise numerous cases pending in various High Courts under Article 139 of the Constitution

संसद सदस्यों और मंत्रियों को सीमाशुल्क विभाग की दुकानों (कस्टम शाप्स) से शस्त्रों की खरीद की अनुमति

966. **डा. अबरार अहमद** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन संसद सदस्यों, मंत्रियों, अधिकारियों और अन्य लोगों की संख्या क्या है जिन्हें नवम्बर, 1990, तक पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान उनके मंत्रालय ने सीमाशुल्क विभाग की दुकानों से शस्त्रास्त्रों की खरीद के लिए अनुमोदन पत्र प्रदान किये है और क्या इस संबंध में कोई नियम है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या उपर्युक्त श्रेणियों में किसी व्यक्ति को उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा विगत में भी एक से अधिक हथियारों की खरीद के लिए संस्वीकृति पत्र प्रदान किया गया था, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) सीमाशुल्क विभाग की दुकान से एक संसद सदस्य को तीन शस्त्रों की खरीद की अनुमति न दिये जाने के लिए कारण क्या है, जबकि उन्हें एक ही लाइसेंस पर तीन हथियार रखने और खरीदने की अनुमति प्राप्त है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री और विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री दिग्विजय सिंह) : (क) से (ग) अक्तूबर, 1987 से अप्रतिबंधित वोर के जब्तशुदा हथियारों को विभागीय प्रयोग के लिए रखा जा रहा है और इन्हें विभागीय अधिकारियों को नहीं बेचा जा रहा है। तथापि, विभागीय आवश्यकताओं के लिए आवश्यक न होने पर यदि कोई हथियार शेष बच जाता है तो इनके लिए सामान्यत अनुरोध प्राप्त होने पर पहले आओ और पहले पाओ के आधार पर संसद सदस्यों को देने का प्रस्ताव किया जाता है।

अप्रतिबंधित अग्नेयास्त्रों की कुल संख्या, जिन्हें अक्तूबर, 1987 से नवम्बर, 1990 तक की अवधि के दौरान संसद सदस्यों तथा अन्य व्यक्तियों को बेचने के लिए प्रस्ताव किया गया था, नीचे सारणी में दी गई है —

उप-राज्यपाल	1
एम०एल ए /एम एन सी	4
मुख्य मंत्री	1
संसद सदस्य . . .	96
अन्य . . .	3

एक दूसरा हथियार केवल एक संसद सदस्य के मामले में ही आबंटित किया गया था। सीमा शुल्क विभाग के